### To the professional using this “gatepost task”

Please read through the entire text below before you meet with the young person to discuss their maths level. It is best to do this in an informal and casual way, more like an interview or chat. Make the young person feel relaxed and do not make it feel like a “test”.

This task does not have to be done on the same day as the computer based assessment.

### What to do and say

* ‘Today we’re going to try to find out a little about your maths skills, OK? Now we’ll just have a short chat. Later on or tomorrow we’ll do some computer based tasks that will take about 30 minutes’.
* ‘First, I’m going to show you a picture with some information that I want you to look at, then I’ll ask you some questions. You can use this pen and paper if you need to, OK?’(hand over a pen and working out paper)
* Give the young person the laminated picture and text provided and say ‘Have a look at this, then I’ll ask you a few questions’.
* Allow the young person as much time as they need.
* Ask them (orally) the questions in the table on the next page.
* The questions get more difficult progressively, so you need to look for indications of when the young person has reached the limit of the ability to answer correctly. Don’t push them to answer more questions than you think they are capable of. Use this as an indication of which level test to give them – refer to the comments column of the table on the next page.
* Observe what the young person writes on their working out paper. Sometimes people have the right answer but need encouragement to say it. You can prompt them to tell you what they’ve written down if necessary.
* It is important **not** to help them to actually calculate the answers, because this task is to help you decide which level of test to give. You can use some of the ideas and expressions in the box below to guide the young person.

**They can answer orally.**

**Note: No calculators are allowed.**

**Collect the laminated picture and text after you have finished.**

**Guiding without reading the text to the person or helping them with the answer**

* What does the picture tell you?
* Take your time
* Don’t forget , you can use the pen and paper to work it out
* Imagine you had the money in your hand…
* Imagine you were ordering online…
* What have you written down there? (indicating working paper)

**Moving on from an incorrect or non-response**

* Uh, huh let’s move to the next one…
* OK, so let’s try another one…
* OK, that’s enough, now.

### Questions to ask

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Question | Correct answer: | Comment and indicator |
| Q. 1 & 2 Have you got a favourite band? Let’s say this is information about the cost of music by your favourite band.  If I gave you 20 dollars, would you be able to afford to buy the CD?  AND  How much does it cost to download one song from the internet? | Yes  $1.65  (should say the amount out loud “a dollar sixty five”) | If unable to answer, is just guessing or is incorrect the young person should be asked to sit the Level 1 test.  Stop asking questions now.  If both correct then ask **Q3** |
| Q. 3 If you paid for the CD at the shop with a $20 note how much change would you get?  AND  How much would it cost Nicky to download 10 songs from the internet? | 50 cents  $16.50 | If unable to answer, is just guessing or is incorrect the young person should be asked to sit the Level 2 test.  Stop asking questions now.  If both correct then ask **Q4** |
| Q. 4 How does the cost of downloading all the songs compare with the CD price? | “It is cheaper to buy the CD” or “It is more expensive to download the songs from the internet” or correct calculations that show that they worked this out such as:  “12 x $1.65 = $19.80 which is more than $19.55” or “$19.55 ÷ 12 = $1.63 which is less than $1.65”. | If unable to answer, is just guessing or is incorrect the young person should be asked to sit the Level 2 test.  If correct then the young person should be asked to sit the Level 3 test. |

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**My favourite band**

12 songs on the CD

CD price: $19.50

Internet downloads $1.65 each song

What to do???